

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Melanie celebrated her fifth birthday last week and on Saturday had a party that started just about the same time a storm hit the area. The rain didn't keep her friends from coming to help celebrate, however, and the children had loads of fun playing with toys and balloons, and eating all kinds of goodies. Melanie opened all her gifts and balloons, and eating all them all, but she would have been just as happy Saturday if there had been no gifts at all, as long as her friends came over and played. At the age of five she already knows something that many adults have yet to learn, that friendship and love are far more important than anything money can buy!

ELBA GETS MUCH NEEDED WIN OVER OPP

The Elba Tigers got a much needed win Friday night when they clobbered the Opp Bobcats 73-55 to snap a three-game losing streak. The fact the win came over Opp wasn't important, the most important fact was that the Tigers won and won convincingly over a solid opponent. The Tigers had begun to look like a contender in January as they reeled off a bunch of wins and moved above the .500 mark for the first time this season; however, three straight losses, including a lopsided loss at Enterprise, had stung the Tigers and had the players wondering once again just how good they really were. The losses are now forgotten and Elba is once again looking forward to the Area tournament and the chance to advance to sub-state and then to the first over Regional Tournament. These Tigers are a solid 3A club and can win on any given night, and the win over Opp should reinforce that knowledge.

The Elba Tigers put on quite a show Friday night as he poured in 32 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the win over the Bobcats. Yelverton scored 13 points in the first quarter to help the Tigers grab the lead, and by the end of the first half had 23 points. He could have scored many more points, but the win was in the bag and Yelverton got a chance to rest in the fourth quarter for bigger games that are yet to come. Elba has had many outstanding basketball players over the years; however, David Yelverton has to be as good as any and is the best to wear the black-and-gold in quite some time.

AREA TEAMS READY FOR AREA TOURNAMENTS

The Area Tournaments are just around the corner and all teams are trying to peak at the right time. Last week didn't see any area teams reach that peak, but it did give a preview of things to come.

BRANTLEY (23-1) saw its 41-game winning streak come to an end down in Monroeville and that means the Bulldogs can now quit worrying about being underfunded and just go out and win ballgames. Brantley had won so many games so easy that you had to figure the night would come when the Bulldogs would be a little fat and get knocked off. I know the Brantley players and fans are disappointed, but if the Bulldogs had to lose one, at least it came in the regular season and not during the run toward another state title.

NEW BROCKTON (12-9) continued to go through the motions and it now looks like the Gamecocks' season may soon reach an end. The Gamecocks have some very good players and showed against Enterprise that they can play well against stiff opposition; however, in recent weeks it is never sure which Gamecock team will show up. If the real New Brockton comes back to life there is a real shot at making it to the regionals. If not, get ready for spring training.

KINSTON (8-13) began to show signs of coming out of their recent late-season slump and the Bulldogs may not yet be ready to hang up their sneakers. The Bulldogs aren't any kind of roll and haven't started winning a bunch of games, but the Bulldogs are showing signs of life and are playing as hard as they can every night out. If something good can happen before the end of the season, these "Dogs may just bite somebody in the mouth.

ZION CHAPEL (14-13) continued to have problems winning last week, but the Rebels are still improving almost every night out and still can't be counted out. The Rebels have come a long way this season and now have laid the foundation for much better things to come, and can't be overlooked by anyone in the upcoming tournament. Win or lose, this has been a season in which Zion Chapel basketball has begun the road back to being winners.

ONCE OVER LIGHTLY...

***I'm not a skater, but I am tired of all the news about the Tonya Harding investigation and wish the skating officials would do something besides simply "look into" the matter. If the police and FBI have uncovered enough information to make arrests, you now they know enough to either arrest Harding or declare her not guilty. For the sake of Harding, the Olympics and all the sports fans, let's end this whole soap opera now.

***The colleges signed their future stars last week and it looks like Alabama and Auburn both had good luck getting the folks they wanted. Tide signed the #1 players in Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi, and also got the cream of the crop in the state, while Auburn got Lee's Fred Beasley and a whole bunch of players from out of state. The two state colleges have different routes and it will be interesting to see which route leads to wins down the line.

***I can't believe anyone would hire Buddy Ryan, much less hire him as a head coach in the NFL. Ryan is a solid assistant coach and has done well as a defensive coach at Chicago and Houston, but his ego is bigger than any player in the league and anywhere he has been he has always seemed to get more attention than the teams he coached. He reminds me of Jerry Glavinie in that he wants to be the center of attention, and before long he may be like Glavinie in another way - out of coaching.

***Monteville went out to Arkansas Saturday to meet the highly-rated Razorbacks and took it on the chin to the tune of 131-63. The game was set because the coaches were friends and used to coach together, and because Arkansas needed another game. With friends like that, who needs enemies?

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEB. 11
Zion Chapel at New Brockton
Kinston at Goshen
Brantley at Luverne

SATURDAY, FEB. 12
Elba at Wicksburg

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Sports

Tigers snap skid, rout Opp 73-55

The Elba Tigers returned to their winning ways Friday night as they clobbered the Opp Bobcats 73-55, in Elba.

The win improved the Tigers' record to 8-9 and snapped a three-game losing streak for Elba, while the Bobcats slipped to 5-12 with the loss.

The Tigers were ready to play from the opening tip against Opp David Yelverton pulled out to a 19-12 lead in the opening stanza.

A 10-2 run to open the second quarter stretched Elba's lead to 29-14, and the Tigers never looked back as Yelverton and Cory Howe dominated action and helped the Tigers pull out to a lopsided 38-16 halftime bulge.

The third quarter was a replay of the first two as the Tigers completely dominated play on both ends of the court and moved on top 58-32, while the final stanza saw all the Elba reserves get in on the fun as the Tigers claimed the impressive 73-55 win.

David Yelverton scored 32 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead Elba, while Cory Howe added 12 points and Che Vaughan scored 11. Tiltis led Opp with 13 points.

Elba (73): Coleman 9, Vaughan 11, Yelverton 32, Daniels 2, Smokey 2, Howe 12, Magwood 2, Rowe 3.

Opp (55): Jones 9, Nelson 2, Pierce 6, Tiltis 13, Lane 7, Davis 10, Cox 6, Coon 2.

LEGAMIE

The Elba B team saw a fourth quarter rally fall short as the Opp Bobcats defeated the Tigers 66-63.

The Tigers jumped out to a 15-10 lead in the opening stanza, but saw Opp take charge in the second quarter and then pull out to a 48-42 lead after three quarters. Elba staged a late rally and had a chance to catch the Bobcats, but fell to defeat 66-63.

Tim Williams and Tony Orden both scored 13 points to lead Elba, while Michael Reed and D'undray Peterson both added 12. Jay Jackson scored 16 for Opp.

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Elba's Will Magwood (30) goes for up a basket in the Tigers win over Opp. Elba will close out the regular season Saturday night in Wicksburg.

Elba and Brantley set to host upcoming area tournaments

The Alabama High School Athletic Association will begin its "Road to State" next week when Area Tournaments begin at sites across the state.

The tournaments will begin on Feb. 14 at the gyms of the various Area champions, with action to continue through Feb. 16. The top two teams at all area tournaments will then proceed to sub-state action on Feb. 18, with the area winner hosting the sub-state games and the runner-ups traveling.

Elba will host the Class 3A, Area 4 tournament and the Class 4A, Area 4 tournament and the Class 5A, Area 4 tournament. The winners of the Round I, playing the winner of the Louisville-Luverne game in the area final.

Geneva County (Hartford) will host the Class 2A, Area 4 tourney, which will include Geneva County, New Brockton, Cottonwood and Wicksburg, while Brantley will host the Class 1A, Area 3 event, which will include Brantley, Kinston, McKenzie, Pleasant Home and Red Level.

Houston Academy will host the Class 1A, Area 4 tourney, which will have Houston Academy, Coffee Springs, Arlton and Zion Chapel competing.

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FORMER PLAYERS PRESENT...Several of Coach Bryant Steele's former players were present when he was honored by New Brockton High School during a recent ceremony. The ceremony came on the eve of Steele's induction into the Wiregrass Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, Jan. 29, in a ceremony held in Dothan. Pictured above are (l-r

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HOUSE FOR SALE
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\$35.00 per month. Call 897-5807. 2-17-tc

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VOLUME 97

35 CENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1994

1 SECTION 16 PAGES

NUMBER 37

Elba BOE makes changes in policy

by Ferrin Cox
Publisher

The Elba City School Board has approved two changes to policies. One is a board policy dealing with requirements for admission to Elba schools and the second is a code of conduct and discipline plan for the elementary school.

The "Code of Conduct and Assured Discipline Plan" was designed by a group of the elementary school teachers. This committee met with the school board last week and official blessings before the proposal was explained to students and parents. It is now in force. Copies of the new policy were given to students and sent home to parents last week. There is a form to be returned to the school. This form is on the last page and must be signed by the student and a parent and will be placed in the student's folder. The signature is not to show approval of the policy, but acknowledges receipt of it.

The plan spells out to the student what constitutes correct discipline, incorrect discipline and the punishment for infractions. Teachers explained to the board members that they would be recording behavior problems of each student in grade books. Each time a student breaks a rule, two points will be deducted from the student's conduct grade.

They will also be rewarding students for good conduct. Those who maintain an "A" average for the entire semester will be recognized at Honor's Day with an Honorable Conduct Award.

The rules are as follows:
1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Use correct voice for the activity.
3. Keep hands, feet, objects and negative comments to yourself.
4. Raise your hand for per-

mission to speak or to get out of your seat.
5. Use appropriate behavior on school campus. Examples: bathrooms, bus loading zone, gym, halls and cafeteria.

Those maintaining an "A" average in conduct for the six weeks will receive the following:

1. An invitation to a "good conduct" party with a special party theme.
2. Their picture and name in *The Elba Clipper* with an article.
3. A letter to the student's parents praising their good conduct and thanking the parents for their support.
4. Recognition at break to present the letters for their parents.
5. A good conduct ribbon to wear the day of their party.

A student can qualify for the honor roll in other areas but be disqualified by a poor conduct grade, teachers explained. Their reasoning for this was that some students might misbehave and still learn, but their talking, etc., would be creating an environment that would hinder other students from learning.

Three offenses on the same day will result in a trip to the principal's office for discipline. Parents of students who are sent to the office for discipline problems will be notified (by mail) of the first trip and the student is expected to explain the offense to the parent. The second trip to the office will result in the child being sent home for the remainder of the day.

If no contact with the parents can be made, the discipline form will indicate that the child cannot return to school until 11:30 the following day and must be accompanied by a par-

ent. The third trip to the office will result in a three day suspension. Students in grade K-3 will be sent home in the care of a parent. Students suspended in grades 4-6 will be sent to In-School Suspension at Elba High School.

All students will be provided classwork and homework assignments.

A fourth trip to the office will result in a five day suspension and a warning to parents that further discipline problems will be referred to the juvenile authorities.

Superintendent Charles Pearce noted that official board policy still allows for corporal punishment (padding) under a strict set of guidelines.

SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

The Board policy dealing with school admission was amended. The policy already requires proof of immunization for various communicable diseases, a written objection of the parents based on religious grounds or a doctor's statement that the shots would be detrimental to the health of the child.

Please See BOE, Page 2

Elba W&E Board to install 10,000 gallon water tank

by Ferrin Cox
Publisher

The Elba Water & Electric Board monthly meeting Monday evening was basically routine. Business consisted of paying of the monthly bills and a vote to move forward with earlier plans to install a 10,000 gallon water tank on Packing House Road.

Water supply problems in the

area of Kelley Foods prompted the board members to approve action to get an unused 10,000 gallon water tank moved to Packing House Road and hooked into the water system. The cost will be five or six thousand dollars, estimated Water Supervisor Dennis Coleman.

Monthly bills of \$34,448 were approved for payment. This included an annual payment of \$17,287 for Workman's Comp insurance.

Board Chairman Mackey Murdock commented that without the insurance bill and some required engineering fees, the monthly bills would have been less than normal. Murdock reviewed the financial statement with board members and noted no unusual increases or decreases in year-to-date totals.

Engineer Bobby Lee presented the Board with bills on the cleaning, repairing and painting of the 500,000 gallon water tank on Brantley Highway. The low bid was \$63,550 by U.S. Tank of Chipley, FL. The Board tabled any action on this until the March meeting.

Steve Blair enters race for District Judge

Steve E. Blair has announced his candidacy for the position of District Judge, Coffee County, Alabama. The Democratic candidate is subject to the primary elections on June 7, 1994.

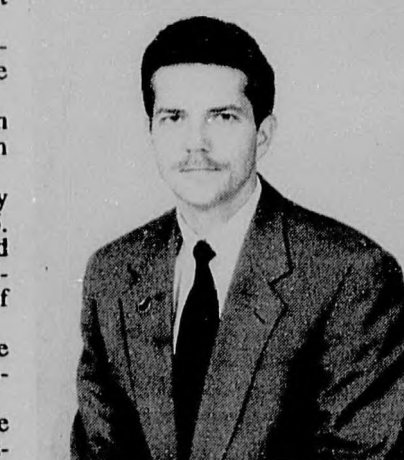
Blair served as juvenile probation officer for Coffee County from 1979-1992. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1985. Following law school, Blair interned as judicial law clerk to Judge William Bowen, Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

Blair has been engaged in the practice of law since 1986 and maintains his office in Enterprise.

The candidate is a member of the Alabama and Coffee County Bar associations and is authorized to practice before the 11th Circuit federal courts.

He is an active board member of Crimestoppers and an instructor at the Enterprise YMCA.

Blair, a 38-year-old resident of Coffee County, is married to the for-



STEVE E. BLAIR

mer Jerri Spence. They have one daughter, Lindsey, and attend St. John's Catholic Church.

The following statement was made by the candidate:

* * HAPPENINGS * *

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION. The AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) is sponsoring free income tax preparation at the Senior Citizens' Center in Elba. The service will be available each Thursday through April 15th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Individuals or couples taking advantage of the service should bring their tax forms and copies of their 1992 tax returns with them.

FREE VISION SCREENING. The Southern Eye Institute and the Elba Medical Group will sponsor a free vision screening on Friday, March 25th. The public is invited to attend from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at Medical Arts Pharmacy in Elba located on Highland Dr. across from Elba General Hospital.

BOOK FAIR. The Elba Elementary School is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on February 28 through March 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the school library. This reading event features the newest titles from over 70 publishers and presents students, parents and teachers a golden opportunity to see the latest works by popular authors and illustrators of books for young readers.

CEMETERY MEETING. The annual business meeting of the Danley's Crossroads Cemetery will be held at 10:00 a.m., March 8th. The meeting will convene in the polling house adjacent to the cemetery. All those interested in the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.

ELBA JAYCEE FUNDRAISER. The Elba Jaycees will be sponsoring a *Woman's Beauty Pageant*, "Miss Foggy Bottom," on Saturday, March 19, 1994 at 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the American Legion building located on the Troy Highway. Anyone wishing to enter the contest or needs more information can contact Scott Powers @ 897-2761 or Susan Forbes @ 897-2977. The deadline for entering the contest is Saturday, March 12th.

Elba's Lions Club members hear history of Work Release Program

On February 8, 1994, Ed Gullion of the Alabama Department of Corrections at the Elba Work Release Facility was the guest speaker for the Elba Lions Club. Mr. Gullion gave a

brief overview as to the history of the Work Release Program. He talked about some of the positive aspects of the program. The program's design is to confer upon the inmates a responsible work ethic back into the individual. Another objective of the program is to remove the inmate and their family from the tax rolls by ensuring the inmate is gainfully employed and the inmate is financially able to render support to his family.

Mr. Gullion said one of the selling points of the work release program is the reliability of the inmate worker. They are going to be at the job on time and ready to work. The inmate is not a burden on the state. He is sick and unable to perform his assigned tasks. The program also gives the inmate an opportunity to budget and save his money so that when he is released from the prison system, he will sustain adequate funds that will enable him to reestablish himself into society as a tax-paying, productive citizen.

ED GULLION

Shooting incident in Mulberry Heights sends four individual to local hospital

by Marvin McLwain
Editor

A shooting incident which occurred Sunday evening resulted in four individuals being carried to Elba General Hospital.

Two men were struck by gunfire while two other individuals, a mother and daughter, were involved in a wreck as an indirect result of the shooting incidents.

According to Lt. Freddy Hanchey, at approximately 8:05 p.m. in the evening, Elba police responded to a complaint in Mulberry. Police were told that subjects had been shot on Reynolds St.

Upon their arrival, police found two men who had been shot. Ammanuel Magwood, age 32, of Birmingham, Alabama, was wounded by gunfire in the right leg. Bobby Frank Jordan, age 29, of Elba was wounded in the right

arm. They were taken to the hospital by private vehicle.

Also responding to the scene was a unit of the Elba Rescue Squad. Upon their arrival, they found that two persons had been injured in an automobile accident.

Reportedly, Sharon Burks, age 31, and her daughter, Marquita Burks, age 7, were injured when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by a vehicle fleeing the scene of the shooting incident.

According to authorities, the car which hit the Burks' car was not involved in the shooting, but was just trying to get out of the area.

The Burks were admitted to the hospital while Magwood was transported to a Dothan hospital. Jordan was treated and released.

At press time, Elba police are continuing the investigation and further details will be released at a later date.

Dwight Adams seeks state senate seat

Enterprise businessman Dwight Adams announced his candidacy for the State Senate, District 31 Monday morning.

Adams, a Republican and well-known resident of the Wiregrass, made his announcement at the Enterprise City Council Chamber.

"I believe the time has come for someone to say 'enough.' I believe it's time for the taxpayers to grab the reins and pull this thing to a stop...before it's too late! For years the professional politicians have offered us the same tired promises, time after time.

"They have promised year after year to help with the problems work-



DWIGHT ADAMS

better treatment than victims, reform the welfare system and see that we do all we can to help rebuild the traditional family unit in Alabama."

Adams says, "For 50 years we've tried things the professional politicians' way. Let's try it the people's way. During my career, I have found that success comes by applying solid principles to complex business and civic issues," he continued.

"And I am convinced that those

Please See SEAT, Page 2

Elba police arrest Enterprise man in rape case

Elba police recently concluded an investigation that led to the arrest of Shelly Cunningham of Enterprise. He was charged with rape in the second degree.

Cunningham, age 38, of Route 3, Box 36, Hillview Trailer Court, was arrested on February 10 and released on a \$7,500 bond that same day.

Elba Police Chief Jack Parker said he could not release any information about the victim except that she is a juvenile who lives in Elba.

A warrant for Cunningham's arrest was signed on Feb. 8 by a parent of the victim. An investigation into the incident was begun at that time by the Elba Police Department and the Department of Human Resources.

Personnel from DHR assisted the police in interviewing the victim. Parker described a charge of rape in the second degree to involve "a person that would not be of age of consent."

If convicted, Cunningham could serve up to 20 years in prison. No preliminary hearing in the incident has been scheduled at this time.